

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23226C1

The purpose of this legislation is to amend the provisions which established the Idaho community reinvestment pilot initiative fund to allow use of accumulated interest and unobligated remaining fund moneys to provide financial assistance to additional eligible property owners conducting voluntary cleanups pursuant to the land remediation act. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has managed the community reinvestment pilot initiative since its inception in 2006. The original legislation allowed for a maximum of 10 projects, each with a maximum rebate of \$150,000. In fiscal year 2008, \$1.5 million was provided from the General Fund to DEQ for the pilot initiative. The 10 projects allowed were selected within two years and since that time, six cleanups have been completed and rebates issued. Completion of cleanup at the remaining four active sites is expected by the end of calendar year 2016. As result of interest accumulated since fund inception and some completed sites receiving less than the maximum allowed rebate, an estimated \$250,000 will be available in the fund over and above the obligations for the remaining four currently active sites. This surplus cannot be used to fund additional cleanups without a change in the statute. This legislation will allow for approval of up to five additional projects, subject to the balance remaining in the fund. It is the department's intent to identify two additional projects, at a maximum of \$125,000 each, to expend the remainder of the fund. Additional projects would be considered only if additional funds were available. This also increases the maximum number of projects that may participate in the initiative to fifteen.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill will authorize DEQ to expend remaining community reinvestment pilot initiative funds in accordance with §39-7211(1) to complete up to five additional cleanup projects. If not approved, the remaining funds, approximately \$250,000, would revert to the General Fund once the director certifies completion of the original 10 projects.

Contact:

Orville Green
Department of Environmental Quality
(208) 373-0278